

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Old Atty. Docket No.: IOM-5973/P0445
New Atty. Docket No. P0445-US

Serial No.:09/587,509
Filed: June 5, 2000

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Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. The foregoing amendments are responsive to the December 11, 2003 Office Action. Applicants respectfully request entry of the requested amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the following comments.

Objection to the Specification

The specification is objected to as the title is not descriptive. Applicants amend the title herein to be more descriptive. The specification is also amended to include the serial number of the related application.

Response to the Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,465,519 issued to Thomas, et al. The rejection asserts that Thomas allegedly teaches each element of the claims. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,212,729 issued to Schafer, et al. The rejection asserts that Thomas allegedly teaches each element of the claims except for password protection, which is allegedly obvious to one of skill in the art.

The claims as amended are directed to an method of controlling software copying by having a non-removable HWID correlating the software with a particular computer. By including a non-removable HWID, the software may only be copied on one machine. None of the cited art teaches or suggests such a non-removable HWID. Thomas is directed to a dongle, hardware key, or add-in circuit board to provide the HWID. However, the present invention suggests a non-removable option, such as the serial number of the master processor (page 7, lines 24-27). With a non-removable HWID, the software is more secure as only the specific computer may be used. Further, it is far easier to duplicate a dongle or add-in board, while copying the serial number of the non-removable processor would be much more difficult for a software pirate. Also, the present claims require use of the HWID only when copying, to thereby prevent unauthorized reproductions. Thomas only teaches the use of a HWID when executing the program. Under Thomas, the program may be copied freely without the use of a HWID. None of the cited art teaches the use of a HWID to prevent copying..

In view of the foregoing distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguished over the cited art. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claim 1.

Claims 2-3 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Each dependent claim further defines Claim 1. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-3 are likewise in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of dependent Claims 2-3.

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Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please direct all future communications with regard to this application to the following address:

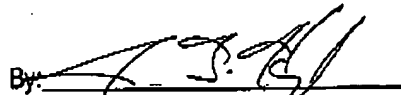
James T. Hagler
Patent Department
Iomega Corporation
10955 Vista Sorrento Parkway
San Diego, California 92130
(858) 314-7152 Tel. / (858) 314-7005

Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any referred to as attached) is being sent via facsimile to 703-746-7239 to the Commissioner for Patents, Technology Center 2800, on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 8, 2004

By: 
James T. Hagler
Reg. No. 40,631

IOMEGA CORPORATION
Patent Department
10955 Vista Sorrento Parkway
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone: (858) 314-7152
Facsimile: (858) 314-7005